

Council on the Blind  
Smyrna Rest Stop  
5500 DuPont Parkway  
Smyrna, DE 19977 @ 10:00 am.  
Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2018

Welcome and call to order: Recognizing a quorum, Lloyd Schmitz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lloyd Schmitz (Chair), Patti Addison, Deidre Morris, Jillian Queen, Ken Rolph

Members Absent: Kat Bottner, Pat Carzo

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Staff: Sandi Miller, Deputy Director, Jill Morrison, Holly Jackson

Public: Wayne Marsh, Blind Vendors Committee Chair, Mary Marsh, Rob Keller, and by phone Carol King-Reis.

Lloyd Schmitz, Chair, Welcomed everyone and wished everyone Seasons Greetings.

Minutes:

Deidre Morris motioned to approve the November 9, 2018 meeting minutes and Ken Rolph seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Division for the Visually Impaired Director's Report-Sandi Miller, Deputy Director  
The following are the Statistics for the Agency regarding the number of consumers served by each unit:

Education Unit-282

Vocational Rehabilitation-296

Independent Living Services and older blind -163

Orientation & Mobility – 157

Assistive Technology – 34

Total – 631 active (unduplicated) consumers

New referrals since last report-13

Successful closures for VR totaled 38 for FY2018.

Sandi Miller attended the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) this past October. The information concerning the conference was shared with those in attendance. Mr. Schmitz suggested that consideration be given for money to be included in the budget for a member of the VRAC to attend the CSAVR Conference. Deidre Morris made the motion to accept the consideration and seconded by Jillian Queen. Motion carried.

Independent Living Services

ILS staff attended the 2018 Delaware Diabetes Expo at Dover Downs. Melodye May was the ceremony's host.

The Independent Living Advisory Council's next meeting is December 11, 2018.  
The ILS workshop on Holiday Crafts is December 14, 2018 at Milford and New Castle locations.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation Activities (VR)

New partnerships have been developed with Med Express (urgent care center) and Exude (HR consulting)

VR staff attended the following:

Middletown Chamber of Commerce and the Westside Youth Girls Empowerment Workshop

#### Education:

One of the presenters at next month's Transition Conference is a DVI high school student and will present on work-based learning.

DVI has twelve full-time TVIs and four full time O & M instructors and one casual/seasonal.

Out of the twelve TVIs, five are certified, with one TVI obtaining certification later this month.

The newest TVI to join DVI was accepted into the University of Nebraska Program starting in January 2019.

No education compensatory time is owed for students and there are four hours owed for O & M. Completion of these hours expected by the end of 2018.

The Education Unit hosted a fall beach house in October for grades 9-12, with eleven students in attendance.

O & M hosted an outing to the Christiana Mall prior to the Thanksgiving holiday with seven students attending. The students were required to arrange their own transportation which fostered independence and socialization.

#### Orientation & Mobility (O&M):

Mr. Schmitz questioned the use of technology in training O & M consumers, and suggested that DelDOT's updated transit app should be included in the O & M training. DVI consumers have received information regarding the app however; best practices dictate learning O&M skills first without technology, since technology is not always reliable.

#### Material Center:

Due to recent affordability of embossers, members discussed the possibility of school districts purchasing them to assist in producing material.

DVI and DVR are working closely with the Department of Education, in regards to Career Tech Education in the Districts.

In September, a professional development day was held to further UEB training with staff.

DVI's Communications representative is working on a Vocational Rehabilitation marketing video. The video is currently in the process of review and edit.

Mr. Schmitz requested that the item "discussion on developing a website that is accessible for the visually impaired" be placed on the January 2019 Agenda, under New Business.

#### BEP:

An RFQ went out for the Carvel Cafeteria. Question from Mr. Schmitz, will the mini market only be for the Carvel location? Mr. Wayne Marsh, Blind Vendors Committee, commented there has not been a RFQ for DPC. The Carvel Cafeteria would not be opening until sometime in March 2019.

Mr. Marsh, BVC, Chair, shared that the Smyrna Gift shop and Del Tech Terry Campus cafeteria will close by the end the year.

An Open House to promote BEP is Wednesday, December 19, 2018. The question from Mr. Schmitz on what opportunities are within BEP? Wayne Marsh, BVC chair responded they were reaching out to DAFB.

Election:

Lloyd Schmitz informed his terms expires in April of 2019. All seven Council members are eligible to chair the Council. Mr. Schmitz opened the floor for nominations. Patti Addison nominated Ken Rolph and Mr. Rolph accepted the nomination. Deidre Morris nominated Lloyd Schmitz and Mr. Schmitz accepted the nomination. Jillian Queen requested a nomination for Pat Carzo, but the Chair informed attendees that the individual must be present to accept the nomination. The vote for Chair was taken by paper ballot, the ballots were counted and four votes were cast for Mr. Schmitz and one vote cast for Mr. Rolph. Mr. Schmitz is to continue as Chairperson.

Mr. Lloyd Schmitz will send out to Council members the dates for the 2019 Council meetings.

Michele Hamilton, DVI, will follow up with location of the 2019 Council meetings.

The Council decided to focus on a different unit within DVI each month; therefore, Mr. Schmitz will follow up with a list of what unit will be highlighted for each month.

Public Comment:

Wayne Marsh wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Carol King-Reis – Instead of developing another Technology website, we should share the current resources that are available and direct individuals to Hadley School for the Blind or Perkins School for the Blind.

Mr. Schmitz requested the link for Division for the Visually Impaired website be placed in the minutes: <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dvi/>

Patti Addison reported that Blindsight Delaware has great partnerships with the Lions Club. That Blindsight is helping with the Lions Club Christmas parties, which have been well attended. Ms. Addison wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ken Rolph and second by Jillian Queen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Michele Hamilton  
Administrative Specialist  
Division for the Visually Impaired